

CLAIMS

sub A' 1. A method for producing a cellulose derivative, which comprises

- 5 a) treating the pulp with a hemicellulase, and
b) chemically modifying the treated pulp.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the hemicellulase is an enzyme that hydrolyzes β -1,4-glycoside bonds.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the hemicellulase is a
10 xylanase.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the xylanase is obtainable from Bacillus sp. SD902.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the chemical modification is etherification.

sub B' 15 6. The method of any of claim 1, wherein the chemical modification is methyl-etherification, ethyl-etherification, hydroxyethyl-etherification, hydroxypropyl-etherification, or carboxymethyl-etherification.

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